



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the name of Shri Ravindra Kumar Agrawal, Advocate, for appointment as a Judge of the High Court of Chhattisgarh.

On 3 February 2023, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Chhattisgarh in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues recommended the elevation of Shri Ravindra Kumar Agrawal as a Judge of that High Court. The Chief Minister and the Governor of Chhattisgarh have concurred with the recommendation.

In order to ascertain suitability of the above candidate for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted our colleague conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Chhattisgarh.

The sole consultee-judge has found the candidate suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court. The Collegium has duly considered the inputs placed by the Government of India on the file. The Government has flagged certain complaints pertaining to the candidate which are placed in the file. Nothing specific bearing on the integrity or the reputation of the officer has emerged on the file. Having due regard to the opinion of the consultee-judge, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri Ravindra Kumar Agrawal is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court.



In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that Shri Ravindra Kumar Agrawal, Advocate, be appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Chhattisgarh.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

10 October 2023



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the names of the following Judicial Officers for appointment as Judges of the High Court of Bombay:

1. Shri Abhay Jainarayanji Mantri,
2. Shri Shyam Chhaganlal Chandak, and
3. Shri Neeraj Pradeep Dhote.

On 27 June 2023, the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Bombay in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues recommended that the above judicial officers be appointed as judges of that High Court. The Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States of Maharashtra and Goa have concurred with the recommendation.

In order to ascertain the fitness and suitability of the above-named persons for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted our colleagues conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Bombay.

For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of the above judicial officers for elevation to the High Court, we have scrutinized and evaluated



the material placed on record including the observations made by the Department of Justice in the file.

1. Shri Abhay Jainarayanji Mantri

The consultee-judges have opined that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. The inputs of Government placed in the file do not contain any observation adverse to the integrity or reputation of the officer. It appears from the opinion of one of the consultee-judges that the officer was previously overlooked for appointment as a judge of the High Court. However, bearing in mind the fact that the High Court Collegium and consultee-judges have found him fit and suitable as also the assessment of the Government of India on the file, the Collegium recommends that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court of Bombay.

2. Shri Shyam Chhaganlal Chandak

The consultee-judges have opined that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. The inputs placed in the file do not contain any observation adverse to the integrity or reputation of the officer. It appears from the opinion of one of the consultee-judges that the officer was previously overlooked for appointment as a judge of the High



Court. However, bearing in mind the fact that the High Court Collegium and the consultee-judges have found him fit and suitable as also the assessment of the Government of India on the file, the Collegium is of the considered view that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court of Bombay.

3. Shri Neeraj Pradeep Dhote

The consultee-judges have opined that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. The inputs placed in the file do not contain any observation adverse to the integrity or reputation of the officer. Bearing in mind the assessment of the Government of India on the file, and the above circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court of Bombay.

We are conscious of the fact that the above proposal involves non-recommendation of senior judicial officers. We have gone through the Minutes of the High Court Collegium and are in agreement with the justification given by the High Court Collegium for not recommending their names.



In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that (1) Shri Abhay Jainarayanji Mantri, (2) Shri Shyam Chhaganlal Chandak, and (3) Shri Neeraj Pradeep Dhote, judicial officers, be appointed as judges of the High Court of Bombay. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

10 October 2023



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the names of the following Advocates for appointment as Judges of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh:

1. Shri Harinath Nunepally,
2. Smt. Kiranmayee Mandava @ Kiranmayee Kanaparthi,
3. Smt. Sumathi Jagadam, and
4. Shri Nyapathy Vijay.

On 22 February 2023, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues recommended the elevation of the above Advocates as judges of that High Court. The Chief Minister and the Governor of the State of Andhra Pradesh have concurred with the recommendation.

In order to ascertain the fitness and suitability of the above-named advocates for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted our colleagues conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh.



For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of the above-named candidates for elevation to the High Court, we have scrutinized and evaluated the material placed on record including the observations made by the Department of Justice in the file as well as the complaint(s) received against the candidates.

1. Shri Harinath Nunepally

All the consultee-judges have unanimously opined that the candidate is fit and suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. The assessment made by the Government of India in the file does not indicate anything adverse to the integrity of the candidate. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that the candidate is fit and suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court.

2. Smt. Kiranmayee Mandava @ Kiranmayee Kanaparthi

The consultee-judges have unanimously opined that the candidate is fit and suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. The assessment made by the Government of India in the file does not indicate anything adverse to the integrity of the candidate. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view



that the candidate is fit and suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court.

3. Smt. Sumathi Jagadam

All the five consultee-judges have concurred in opining that the candidate is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. Though there are certain adverse inputs placed on the file, the Collegium has duly borne in mind the assessment of the Government of India.

The candidate is a woman belonging to Scheduled Caste category. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstance, the Collegium finds the candidate suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court.

4. Shri Nyapathy Vijay

While four of the consultee-judges unanimously opined that the candidate is fit and suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court, another consultee-judge, Mr Justice J K Maheshwari has not given any views on his suitability. The assessment made by the Government in the file does not indicate any observation adverse to the integrity of the candidate. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that the candidate is fit and suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court.



In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (1) Shri Harinath Nunepally, (2) Smt. Kiranmayee Mandava @ Kiranmayee Kanaparthi, (3) Smt. Sumathi Jagadam, and (4) Shri Nyapathy Vijay, Advocates, be appointed as judges of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

10 October 2023



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the name of Shri Vimal Kanaiyalal Vyas, Judicial Officer, for appointment as a Judge of the High Court of Gujarat.

On 7 February 2023, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Gujarat in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues made the above recommendation.

Views of the Chief Minister and the Governor for the State of Gujarat on the above recommendation have not been placed in the file. On this aspect, Department of Justice has forwarded the above recommendation by invoking para 14 of the Memorandum of Procedure which provides that if the comments of the State constitutional authorities are not received within the said time frame (six weeks from the date of receipt of the proposal from the Chief Justice of the High Court), it should be presumed by the Minister of Law and Justice that the Governor and Chief Minister have nothing to add to the proposal and proceed accordingly.

In order to ascertain the suitability of Shri Vimal Kanaiyalal Vyas for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted our colleagues conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Gujarat.



For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of Shri Vimal Kanaiyalal Vyas for elevation to the High Court, we have scrutinized and evaluated the material placed on record.

All the consultee-judges have found the officer to be suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. The Collegium has also taken note of the report of the Judgment Assessment Committee. The Collegium has also duly noted certain adverse observations made in a report placed in the file.

Bearing in mind the views of the consultee-judges on the suitability of the candidate, the report of the Judgment Assessment Committee and the assessment made by the Government of India in the file, the Collegium is of the considered view that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court of Gujarat.

While considering the above proposal, we have also taken note of the fact that the above proposal involves non-recommendation of a senior judicial officer. Cogent reasons have been recorded by the Collegium of the High Court for not recommending his name. We are, therefore, in agreement with the High Court Collegium for overlooking him.



In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that Shri Vimal Kanaiyalal Vyas, Judicial Officer, be appointed as a judge of the High Court of Gujarat.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

10 October 2023



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Re: Transfer of Mr Justice M V Muralidaran, Judge, High Court of Manipur.

On 9 October 2023, the Collegium proposed the transfer of Mr Justice M V Muralidaran, Judge, High Court of Manipur [PHC: Madras], to the High Court at Calcutta, for better administration of justice.

In terms of the Memorandum of Procedure, we have consulted one of the judges of the Supreme Court who, being conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Manipur, is in a position to offer views on the proposed transfer. We have also consulted the Chief Justice of the High Court at Calcutta.

Mr Justice M V Muralidaran, by a communication dated 10 October 2023, requested to transfer him to his parent High Court and if that is not feasible, to permit him to continue to function in the High Court of Manipur, instead of transferring him to the High Court at Calcutta.



We have considered the requests made by Mr Justice M V Muralidaran in his above communication. The Collegium does not find merit in the requests made by him. The Collegium, therefore, resolves to reiterate its recommendation dated 9 October 2023 to transfer Mr Justice M V Muralidaran to the High Court at Calcutta.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

(B R Gavai), J

(Surya Kant), J

11 October 2023.



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the names of the following Judicial Officers for appointment as Judges of the High Court of Delhi:

1. Ms Shalinder Kaur, and
2. Shri Ravinder Dudeja.

On 30 May 2023, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Delhi in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues recommended the elevation of the above judicial officers as judges of that High Court.

In order to ascertain the fitness and suitability of the above-named persons for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted our colleagues conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Delhi.

For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of the above-named candidates for elevation to the High Court, we have scrutinized and evaluated the material placed on record including the observations made by the Department of Justice in the file.

1. Ms Shalinder Kaur

The Judgment Evaluation Committee has given an 'A' rating to the judgments of the officer. Both the consultee-judges have indicated that the officer possesses merit and ability. The assessment made by the



Government in the file does not indicate anything adverse to the integrity or the reputation of the officer. There is a need to ensure greater representation to women on the Bench to promote diversity and inclusion. The collegium is conscious of the fact that the officer has recently retired from the Delhi Higher Judicial Service on 30 September 2023. Despite this, having regard to the fact that the officer has a proven track record and possesses both merit and integrity, the Collegium is of the considered view that she is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court of Delhi.

2. Shri Ravinder Dudeja

The Judgment Evaluation Committee has given an 'A' rating to the judgments of the officer. Both the consultee-judges have indicated that the officer has merit and ability. The assessment made by the Government in the file does not contain any observation adverse to the integrity or reputation of the officer. Considering the long experience of the officer in judicial service, merit and integrity, the Collegium is of the considered view that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court of Delhi.

While considering the above proposals, we have also taken note of the fact that the above proposal involves non-recommendation of a senior judicial officer. Cogent reasons have been recorded by the Collegium of the High Court for not recommending his name. We are, therefore, in agreement with the Collegium of the High Court for not recommending his name.



In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that (1) Ms Shalinder Kaur and (2) Shri Ravinder Dudeja, Judicial Officers, be appointed as judges of the High Court of Delhi. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

10 October 2023



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the names of the following Judicial Officers for appointment as Judges of the High Court of Tripura:

1. Shri Biswajit Palit, and
2. Shri Sabyasachi Datta Purkayastha.

On 01 December 2022, the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Tripura in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues recommended the elevation of the above judicial officers as judges of that High Court.

Views of the Chief Minister and the Governor for the State of Tripura on the above recommendation have not been placed in the file. On this aspect, the Department of Justice has forwarded the above recommendation by invoking para 14 of the Memorandum of Procedure which provides that if the comments of the State constitutional authorities are not received within the said timeframe (six weeks from the date of receipt of the proposal from the Chief Justice of the High Court), it should be presumed by the Minister of Law and Justice that the Governor and Chief Minister have nothing to add to the proposal and proceed accordingly.

In order to ascertain the fitness and suitability of the above-named judicial officers for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted our colleagues conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Tripura.



For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of the above-named candidates for elevation to the High Court, we have scrutinized and evaluated the material placed on record including the observations made by the Department of Justice in the file as well as the complaints, received against one of the candidates.

1. Shri Biswajit Palit

The judicial officer is functioning as Legal Remembrancer and Secretary, Law Department, Govt. of Tripura. Both the consultee-judges have recommended that he is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. The inputs placed by the Government of India on the file do not indicate anything adverse to the reputation or integrity of the officer. The Collegium has also noticed the report of the Judgment Assessment Committee. Bearing in mind the above circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court.

2. Shri Sabyasachi Datta Purkayastha

The judicial officer is presently functioning as Director of the Tripura Judicial Academy. One of the consultee-judges has expressed the view that the officer may be considered at a later stage, while the other consultee-judge has not offered any view. The Collegium has taken due note of the inputs placed by the Government of India on the file which do not contain any information adverse to the reputation or integrity of the officer. The



Collegium has also taken note of the report of the Judgment Assessment Committee. The Collegium finds the candidate suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court.

While considering the above proposal, we have also taken note of the fact that the above proposal involves non-recommendation of senior judicial officers. Cogent reasons have been recorded by the Collegium of the High Court for not recommending their names. We are, therefore, in agreement with the Collegium of the High Court for not recommending them.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (i) Biswajit Palit and (ii) Sabyasachi Datta Purkayastha, Judicial Officers, be appointed as judges of the High Court of Tripura. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

10 October 2023



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the names of the following Judicial Officers for appointment as Judges of the High Court of Kerala:

1. Smt M B Snehalatha,
2. Shri Johnson John,
3. Shri G Girish,
4. Shri C Pratheepkumar, and
5. Shri P Krishna Kumar.

On 20 March 2023, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues recommended the elevation of the above judicial officers as judges of the High Court of Kerala. The Chief Minister and the Governor of the State of Kerala have concurred with the recommendation.

In order to ascertain the fitness and suitability of the above-named persons for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted our colleagues conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Kerala.

For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of the above-named candidates for elevation to the High Court, we have scrutinized and evaluated



the material placed on record including the observations made by the Department of Justice in the file.

1. Smt M B Snehalatha

Both the consultee judges have opined that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. The assessment made by the Government of India in the file indicates that she enjoys a good personal and professional image and nothing adverse came to notice against her integrity. However, it also indicates that the officer faced criticism for two orders granting bail. The Collegium is of the considered view that this observation should not come in the way of the recommendation of the officer for appointment as a judge of the High Court, particularly in light of the fact that the Government has fairly indicated that nothing adverse came to notice against her integrity. Besides being a woman, she is an OBC candidate and is over 59 year old and would have a short tenure as a judge of the High Court. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court.

2. Shri Johnson John

Both the consultee-judges have opined that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. The assessment made by the



Government of India in the file does not indicate anything adverse to the integrity or reputation of the officer. The Collegium has also had due regard to the track record of the officer. Besides, the candidate belongs to a minority community. The Collegium is of the view that Shri Johnson John is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court.

3. Shri G. Girish

Both the consultee-judges have opined that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. The assessment made by the Government of India in the file does not indicate anything adverse to the integrity or reputation of the officer. The Collegium has also had due regard to the track record of the officer. The Collegium is of the view that Shri G Girish is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court.

4. Shri C. Pratheepkumar

Both the consultee-judges have opined that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. The assessment made by the Government of India in the file does not indicate anything adverse to the integrity or reputation of the officer. The Collegium has also had due regard to the track record of the officer as well as to the fact that he is an OBC candidate. The Collegium is of the view that Shri C Pratheepkumar is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court.



5. Shri P Krishna Kumar

Both the consultee-judges have opined that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. The assessment made by the Government of India in the file does not indicate anything adverse to the integrity or reputation of the officer. The Collegium has also had due regard to the track record of the officer. The Collegium has duly considered the observations made by the Government of India on the file. While it is correct that the officer has completed 10 years of qualifying service recently, the Collegium also notes that since he was a direct recruit to the Higher Judicial Service, he would also have experience as an advocate prior to his appointment as a judicial officer. Bearing in mind all the circumstances and the opinion of the consultee-judges and there being no adverse inputs in the file, the Collegium considers Shri P Krishnakumar suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court.

While considering the above proposal, we have taken note of the fact that the above proposal involves non-recommendation of some senior judicial officers. Cogent reasons have been recorded by the Collegium of the High Court for not recommending their names. We are, therefore, in agreement with the Collegium of the High Court for not recommending their names.



In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (i) Smt M B Snehalatha, (ii) Johnson John, (iii) G Girish, (iv) C Pratheepkumar, and (v) P Krishna Kumar, Judicial Officers, be appointed as Judges of the High Court of Kerala. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

10 October 2023



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

**Re: Proposal for transfer of Mr Justice Avneesh Jhingan,
Judge, High Court of Punjab and Haryana.**

By a resolution dated 3 August 2023, this Collegium proposed transfer of Mr Justice Avneesh Jhingan, Judge, High Court of Punjab and Haryana to the High Court of Gujarat. The recommendation has been pending with the Government since 11 August 2023.

On reconsideration and in supersession of the above recommendation, it is proposed to transfer Mr Justice Avneesh Jhingan, Judge, High Court of Punjab and Haryana to the Rajasthan High Court.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

(B R Gavai), J

(Surya Kant), J

9 October 2023.